The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

Mute swans are beautiful, graceful birds that are causing problems in Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay area, and elsewhere in North America. The Mute Swan is an invasive, nonnative species that now inhabits the Chesapeake Bay in large and rapidly expanding numbers. Its population in Maryland has increased dramatically since 1986. At the current observed rates of increase, and absent management, the swan population in the state is expected to reach 13,500 birds (at 12% growth/year) - 38,500 birds (at 23% growth/year) by 2010.

DNR believes that adverse ecological effects are occurring as a result of this swan population and will increase if the population is allowed to grow. Concentrations of foraging swans can severely impact submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds and restoration plantings. Foraging by swans during the growing season reduces plant survival and the plant's ability to reproduce. This large swan population reduces the availability of SAV for wintering waterfowl and other fish and wildlife populations dependent upon SAV. Large numbers of Mute Swans have displaced state-threatened species of colonial waterbirds (Least Terns and Black Skimmers) from their island nest sites. The antagonistic behavior exhibited by mute swans toward other native wetland birds can prevent native waterfowl from using traditional nesting and feeding areas. In some cases, Mute Swans kill other wetland bird species. Mute Swans also impact humans. The display of aggressive behavior by some swan pairs instills fear into citizens preventing them from using their shoreline property and adjacent waters.

To address these concerns, the DNR appointed a Mute Swan Task Force in 1999 to develop management recommendations. The cornerstone of the Mute Swan Task Force recommendations was the protection of native species and their habitats from the effects of Mute Swans. The Task Force recommended that the DNR establish Swan-Free Areas and exclude or remove mute swans from these areas. The Task Force recommendations were made available to the public for a 30-day comment period in March 2001. The DNR Waterfowl Advisory Committee endorsed the Task Force recommendations, but further recommended a rapid reduction of the Mute Swan population and the elimination of state protection for the species. The recommendations provided by these two advisory committees, along with biological and wildlife management principles and public input, were considered in the development of the goals, strategies, and objectives contained within our recently released management plan.

A management plan has been drafted and was made available to the public in July. The overall goal is to manage the Mute Swan population in Maryland at a level that (1) minimizes the impacts to Maryland's native species and habitats; (2) is consistent with the objectives of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement; and (3) minimizes conflicts with humans. To

(continued on page 3, column 1)

Maryland Fall Count, 2002
by Chuck Stirrat

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will be held Saturday, September 21, 2002 in the Maryland-DC area. Several counties have been conducting organized counts for a number of years on the third Saturday of September. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion. Clubs that have not included a formal count in their programs this year are urged to plan to do so in future years.

Everyone is urged to participate, no matter your skill level. Identification is only part of being successful; you have to spot the bird first, so every pair of eyes helps.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A checklist compilation form is available on the MOS website, in the "Counts" section.

The list includes the species one would expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

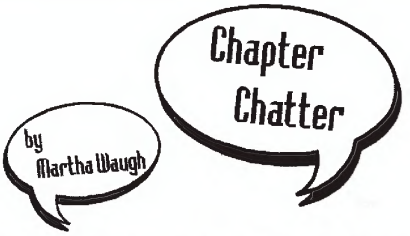
The county coordinators who have volunteered so far are listed on the website form. Anyone already organizing a count or interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county are encouraged to contact the state Coordinator.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact the state Fall Count Coordinator directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered directly to the state Fall Count Coordinator by October 10.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is no later than October 10, 2002. County compilers are asked to submit compilations by October 31.

Plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat,
Fall Count Coordinator
Home phone: 410-531-2417
E-mail: stirrcr1@worldnet.att.net (home)
Charles.Stirrat@jhuapl.edu (work)



Harford County Suffers Losses—Barclay Earl Tucker, Sr., died on April 9, 2002 at the age of 88. He had been a member of the Harford Chapter since 1954 and was a past president. He also served as president of MOS from 1973 to 1976, the only MOS president from Harford County. He was also chair of the state sanctuary committee for several years. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Preston Jones Tucker, his son, and two grandsons. William J. Walker died on May 6 at the Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville. He and his wife, Barbara, who survives him, were members of the Harford Bird Club in the past. William Walker was a skilled woodcarver who enjoyed making miniature birds which he displayed at the Harford Day School in Bel Air.

Allegany Loses the Man Who Saw 500 Golden Eagles—Jim Paulus, 68, long-time Allegany chapter member and the dean of Town Hill hawkwatching, died on April 20, 2002. His wife, Shirley, survives. Jim had retired from PPG Industries after 32 years. He served in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. He was a volunteer Assistant Scoutmaster and National Park Service tour guide. Jim was a dedicated supporter for the preservation and conservation of all wild life, including birds. Ray Kiddy recalls that Jim "was responsible for adding Mountain Bluebird to the

(continued on page 3, column 1)

Contents

DNR Reports 1
MOS Fall Count, 2002 1
Chapter Chatter 1
A Thank You 2
President's Corner 2
Atlas News 4
2002 World Series of Birding 5
MOS Reference Collections 5
MD Big Day Record Set! 6
Buying Optics Online? 6
2003 Scholarship Program 7
Sanctuary Committee Notes 7
Least Tern Colony Info Request 7
2003 MOS Conference 8
2001 Business Meeting Minutes 8
2002 Business Meeting Minutes 9
March Board Meeting Minutes 10
MOS Calendar, Sep/Oct 16

A Special Thank You

We would like to thank MOS for the Distinguished Career Service Award which we were given at the conference at Wisp in June. Receiving this award was an honor, and we were both surprised and speechless. It has been and continues to be a pleasure to work with so many wonderful and dedicated people who have a common goal of protecting birds and preserving their habitat. Our lives have been enriched by our association with MOS. Again, many thanks.

Larry and Jean Fry

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Editor: Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
(301) 989-9035 (Home)
(202) 691-5707 (Office)
(202) 691-5745 (Fax)
marshhawk@att.net

Ass't editor & MOS webmaster: Frances C. Saunders
fcsaunders@att.net

Calendar editor: Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
(410) 734-6969 (Home)
(410) 436-3490 (Office)
les@birdtreks.com

State Web Page: http://www.mdbirds.org

Mailing List: Bill Guion
8007 Martown Road
Laurel, MD 20723
(301) 490-0444 (Home)
guion@us.net

Exec. Secretary: Eric Sprague
2619 Holman Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-588-1690 (Home)
202-566-2861 (Office)

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the November/December issue are:

Nov/Dec Calendar Activities: September 25

All Other Submissions: October 1

President's Welcome

by Paul Zucker

To all our returning members, welcome back. Since this is my first article as your new president, I thought it would be appropriate to take stock of our present situation and then to look ahead to the challenges that await us. As I started compiling a list of significant items to discuss, I soon realized that there were too many items to cover in one brief article. Therefore I am going to choose a few items now and cover the others in future articles.

I shall start with a few comments about our financial situation, since this is the underpinning for many of our activities. Recently, we reviewed and upgraded our insurance coverage, underwent a thorough audit by an external auditor (supported by the heroic efforts of our treasurer, Shiras Guion), and contracted for surveys and assessments of our sanctuaries. In the current budget, which was approved by the board of directors in March, we allocated $200,000 from the Schenkel bequest to the sanctuary fund and $100,000 to the education fund. Income from these amounts will support expanded sanctuary upkeep and education expenses of the society. The income from the remaining $200,000 of this bequest is being allocated this year to the Breeding Bird Atlas project. In addition, the proceeds from the World Series of Birding are also going to the atlas this year. Income from the Environmental Fund for Maryland has been earmarked this year for conservation projects. Our operating budget (for regularly occurring items like publications, insurance, audits, publicity, and committee activities) is now in balance for the first time in many years as a result of the dues increase voted at the membership meeting in June.

The major challenges we face on the financial front are fundraising for the atlas project and improving our investment posture. Janet Millenson is continuing to work with the atlas committee and is submitting applications to businesses and organizations that sponsor community projects. I intend to organize a review of our investment portfolio with the goal of providing sufficient diversification for each of our special funds and of developing a consistent investment philosophy.

Another area receiving a great deal of concern is membership. Our membership size has been declining for some time, and we have some small chapters that are struggling to keep afloat (and the Jug Bay chapter went under last year). Some chapters have begun special efforts to attract and cultivate beginning birders. In the past couple of years, considerable excitement accompanied the exploits of the Centreville Middle School birding team at the World Series of Birding. Now, the education committee is supporting youth birding activities at three schools. Van Vogel, the committee chair, is working on plans to further expand these efforts.

Membership growth continues to be a major challenge for us. In addition to our work with middle-school students, we need to have activities that involve older students and we need to reach out to the interested public. One of our greatest assets is our sanctuary system, and I want to see us utilize it for special trips, lectures, and projects. I also want to see us undertake cooperative projects with other conservation organizations such as the Wildfowl Trust (Horsehead) and the Audubon Naturalist Society. Especially important to our membership effort is a good publicity committee. We are now searching for a chair and some enthusiastic members. Furthermore, as part of our long range planning effort (subject of a future article) we will decide if a membership committee is needed.

Now, I am going to ask for your help. Our organization is as strong as our people make it. Please consider doing the following:

1. Join a state committee. We are strengthened when our committees have enough members to share the load and include a diversity of viewpoints. Contact me or your chapter president.
2. Participate in the Breeding Bird Atlas. You don't have to commit to covering a whole block. All observations of courting or nesting behavior (along with place and time) are of value. (Contact our coordinator Walter Ellison at rossgull@crosslink.net).
3. Make a donation to the atlas, the World Series of Birding team, or the Environmental Fund for Maryland (you can designate MOS).
4. Volunteer in support of our annual convention.
5. Attend a state board meeting. These meetings are open to the entire membership and are a good way to become informed about society activities and current issues. I suggest that you contact your chapter president in advance, as you might be able to serve as a proxy. The dates of the board meetings for this coming year are as follows:

   Sept 14 — Queen Anne's County
   December 7 — Washington County
   March 8 — Montgomery County
   June 14 — location to be determined.
6. A very special plea. We are in desperate need of a publicity committee chair. If you are interested, please contact me right away.

In the coming year I shall continue visiting different chapters and their activities. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and opinions. I can be reached at paul.zucker@jhuapl.edu.

DNR REPORTS

(continued from page 1, column 1)

achieve this goal, the management of Mute Swans shall be conducted in an effective, efficient manner, consistent with accepted wildlife management practices.

We are now seeking public comment. It is a guidance document that provides direction and objectives for DNR to manage this overabundant species through 2007. The full plan is available of our webpage at *www.dnr.state.md.us*. The comment period is open until September 20, 2002. I encourage you to review the plan and voice your opinion. Guidelines for commenting are provided on the webpage. We are definitely interested in hearing from you as a member of the birding community.

CHAPTER CHATTER

(continued from page 1, column 3)

list of Maryland birds." MOS birders and many others knew him for the hours he spent hawkwatching at Town Hill. His expertise, his joy in spotting another Golden Eagle, his entertaining stories, his helpfulness, and his generosity, are legend. One long-time admirer says, "Town Hill may seem lonely without him…but I believe his spirit is still there."

Tri-County Birders and Birds Star on TV Segment—Linda Cashman and Ellen Lawler were filmed while "atlasing" by Station WBOC of Salisbury and the interview appeared both the morning and evening news. The Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project was featured as Ellen displayed a copy of the last Atlas, discussing the Baltimore Oriole on the cover, and she explained the current project. The segment included great shots of local breeding birds including Carolina Wren, Robin, Catbird, and Great-crested Flycatcher.

Harford County Birder Wins the Great Texas Birding Classic—Matt Hafner, a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, and member of the Harford County Chapter, participated in the five-day Great Texas Birding Classic. His team of four, the "Third-Basic Wildbirders," sponsored by WildBird Magazine, tallied 325 species and won the competition. The team prize was to donate $20,000 to a conservation project of their choice on the Texas Coast. They picked the Packery Channel Sanctuary Acquisition, a project to purchase remaining undeveloped lots in the Packery Channel Subdivision, creating an island of green for neotropic migrants. Each team member could also choose one of several very nice prizes: a Bausch & Lomb or Televid scope, or a Swarovski or Zeiss binocular. Matt is an avid birder and travels to many locations in the country to find birds to add to his very extensive life list. Carol Flora, president of the chapter says, "his enthusiasm and skill as a birder are an asset to the Harford Bird Club and to the hobby of birdwatching."

Chan Documents the Oldest Bird on Record—In February Chan Robbins visited the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge as part of a team of scientists studying population changes in Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses in relation to mortality from long-line fisheries. He revisited study plots where he had banded nesting albatrosses from 1956 through 1967. The aluminum bands don't last more than about 20 years so, unless a bird has been recaptured and rebanded, one of these original birds will not be recognized. He found a Laysan Albatross that he had banded as an incubating bird on December 10, 1956. It was recaptured in 1966, 1985, and 1993. "This bird must have been at least 5 years old when I first banded it (it would have hatched on or before February 1951) so it would have been at least 51 years old when I recaptured it on its nest on February 5, 2002." This oldest bird in the records of the Bird Banding Laboratory was still actively nesting, brooding a chick, when Chan recaptured it.

Patuxent River Waterbird Census (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties)—Chris Swarth of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary reported on the 4th annual Patuxent River Waterbird Census of Saturday, February 9. Fifty-one observers counted 42,376 waterbirds along 105 miles of the Patuxent from the headwaters near Windsor Forest Road in Howard County to the Drum Point and Hog Point at the river's mouth. The total was considerably lower than the 1999 count of 48,477 but higher than the lowest total of 33,794 in 2000, possibly the result of the milder weather. Ruddy Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye counts were up but both scaup species were lower, especially the Greater Scaup. Canvasback numbers were the lowest recorded. Thirty-one Bald Eagles represented the highest count ever. Rarities included a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Jug Bag, a pair of Peregrines near the bridge at Solomon's Island, and our famous Kelp Gull in St. Mary's County.

Baltimore Lights Up for an English Birder—Tony Eveleigh, an enthusiastic and skilled birder from the Wye Valley of rural Herefordshire, England visited Baltimore in early May to visit his daughter. See *http://www.btinternet.com/~yeatesprint/ross/* for a picture of his home territory. Marian Dodson announced his visit on the MDOsprey mailing list and Elliot Kirschbaum, Gail Frantz, and Steve Sanford played host in Baltimore City, County, Harford County, and on the Delaware coast. Tony's favorite birding story occurred one evening at dusk when he walked toward the Johns Hopkins University stadium. He "had hopes of picking up a Common Nighthawk while the stadium lights were on. Just as he arrived there was a great downpour of rain. Despite the rain, he did indeed see a single Nighthawk circling around the stadium! Shortly afterwards a custodian of the stadium (of whom Tony had been unaware) came up and asked: 'Now that you've seen the Nighthawk, is it all right if I turn out the lights?'" All in all Tony saw 164 species including 118 life-birds. Gail Frantz reports that "He gave all of us a new appreciation of both the common and migrant birds that we are privileged to see here in Maryland."

Talbot Birder Sees a Black Noddy—George Armistead, co-leader for a group touring the Florida Keys and the Dry Tortugas in mid-April, notes that the Black Noddy has reappeared in the Tortugas. The group also saw Black-whiskered Vireo, the West Indian race of the Short-eared Owl on Loggerhead Key, 20 or so Masked Boobies on Hospital Key, a Mangrove Cuckoo in the Keys, and numerous Pomarine Jaegers on the boat rides.

Montgomery Chapter Recognition of Chapter Workers—The Montgomery Chapter has been ruefully congratulating Sybil Williams on her retirement and move to her new house in Kingsport, Tennessee. Sybil, a hardworking member of MOS, has served as Montgomery Chapter Secretary, State MOS Secretary, Silent Auctioneer at both the Chapter and State levels, and, most recently, as the Chapter's Membership Chair. She is still planning to join the Chapter's annual trip to the Outer Banks in January. Outgoing Chapter president, Mike Bowen, honored Sybil's unflagging service with one of six handsome awards presented at the May meeting. Also honored were Cyndi Loeper (new membership), Linda Friedland (site guide editor), Janet Millenson (director and previous chapter newsletter editor), Rick Sussman (director, site guide coordinator), and Lydia Schindler (director and current newsletter editor).

Plea for the Environmental Fund for Maryland from Frederick—Marcia Balestri of the Frederick chapter succeeds Carol Jelich of Anne Arundel as the MOS liaison with the Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM). EFM is a federation of 20 environmental organizations formed for the sole purpose of soliciting employee contributions for environmental causes through payroll deduction in workplace giving campaigns. Marcia has already visited Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Washington chapters in her campaign to solicit support for EFM from MOS members. She hopes to visit every chapter. MOS has received through EFM $5,768.73 in contributions from the 1999 and 2000 Combined Federal Campaigns, the Central Maryland Campaign, and the Baltimore City Campaign. Marcia urges each of you to support EFM through your employer if possible. For information on giving or volunteering to help, visit the website at www.efm.org or contact Marcia at 301-473-5098 or mebalestri@erols.com.

Allegany Chapter Members Visit Former Carroll Chapter Members—George and Barbara Gaffney visited Bavaria and England in July. They spent 11 non-birding days in Bavaria visiting their son and 7 days in Dorset, England visiting former Carroll chapter members, Bill and Susan Hughey. They found Dorset quaint and the countryside lovely. Barbara reports that they managed to see 83 species even though it was non-migration, post-nesting season.

Baltimore Sun Features Chan Robbins—The Baltimore Sun of Sunday, July 7 devoted a full page and more to Chan Robbins, "a witness to birds' fading song." For the text, see *www.Sunspot.net/news/local/balte.md.robbins07jul02story/*. The article highlights Chan's contributions to modern ornithology including: the Breeding Bird Survey, his classic field guide, and his research on the need for large, unbroken tracts of marsh or meadow for breeding birds. For those of you seeking the best bins, Chan is still using Federal Government issue binoculars given him more than 40 years ago. The article also extensively focuses on the devastation of forests by deer. Chan says, "I refuse to be depressed about what's happened because we can't do anything about that (changes from deer that have caused birds to leave), I prefer to think about the future and what we can do to protect the things we love."

Join the Atlas Effort!

by Walter Ellison, State Atlas Coordinator

The initial year of the second Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas has been highly successful. There are still, however, unassigned blocks in all parts of the state. If you are not yet participating in this valuable research project (which is also challenging and fun), consider joining for the final four years. State Atlas Coordinator Walter Ellison answers ten of the most frequently asked questions about the Atlas Project. Even if you do not commit to covering a block, providing breeding information from your yard or neighborhood can be valuable.

To volunteer or for answers to additional questions, contact Walter at 23460 Clarissa Rd., Chestertown, MD 26120; 410-778- 9568; rossgull@crosslink.net

1) **Q:** If MOS did the Atlas from 1983 to 1987, why do it all over again?

A: Bird ranges will change over time even without obvious or extensive habitat or climate change. It is clear that habitat and climate change has taken place over the last twenty years so the birds will have changed as well. To be able to use Atlas results for bird conservation, we must repeat the project to see the direction and extent of change in bird populations over the last two decades.

2) **Q:** I don't know a lot about bird breeding behavior and nests, how can I improve my knowledge before I have to learn from the birds in my block?

A: There is a list of useful references on bird biology in the blue Atlas Handbook (p. 13) furnished all participants. Many of the "life histories" from the old Arthur Cleveland Bent Smithsonian series are available online at http://home.bluemarble.net/~pan/index.html. The Enoch Pratt library in Baltimore has a set of the very detailed species accounts from the Birds of North America Series. The Maryland Atlas book that covers the 1983-1987 Atlas is also a goldmine of information on the biology and behavior of Maryland birds written from an instate perspective. This book is available from a number of sources. It can often be found at a low remaindered price.

3) **Q:** Will I be figuring out how common each bird is in my block?

A: Block work only requires that you determine the presence of a bird species and try to figure out its nesting status. Other observers will run special surveys in each block called miniroutes to estimate the abundance of the more common and widespread bird species.

4) **Q:** I live in a block that is divided into quarterblocks. Will you explain quarterblock coverage?

A: Quarterblocks are intended to reveal breeding distribution on a much finer scale than the standard 10 square mile (5 km^2) block. Counties that are experiencing rapid population growth and development and counties with many unique breeding bird species (i.e. Garrett and Somerset) are entirely covered by quarterblocks to show detailed breeding ranges in order to detect subtle changes in bird ranges. The northwestern block in all quadrangles will also receive quarterblock coverage. When observers cover a quarterblock, they need only confirm a bird once in any one of the quarters, but they must strive to see or hear the bird in the remaining three quarters to establish its presence in them.

5) **Q:** The topographic map of my block is out of date. What can I do to find out about current road, development and habitat conditions in my block in the 21st century?

A: There is a useful compendium of mapping sources and information on land ownership on the Atlas Resources page of the MOS website. Also ADC county map books are available for all but three of Maryland's counties (Allegany, Garrett, and Somerset). The maps in these handy references are updated every other year and are at the same map scale as the USGS quadrangle maps used to produce the block maps. Mapquest provides access to reasonably up-to-date aerial photos, and Merlin does the same with satellite images. (See the Atlas Resources page for more detail and other sources).

6) **Q:** What are the safe dates, and why do I need to pay attention to them?

A: Safe dates are intended to forestall counting migrants or transient birds (such as dispersing post nesters) as possible or probable breeders in a block. If you see strong breeding evidence outside of safe dates (for example, nest building or a bird with a fecal sac), such behavior is countable for the Atlas.

7) **Q:** Are there "better" or "higher" codes to aim for within the probable and confirmed categories? e.g. Is a nest code "better" than a code where I don't see a nest?

A: There are no probable or confirmed codes that are considered better (or higher). This policy is intended to discourage overly zealous nest searching or other harassment in the name of "upgrading" an already confirmed breeder.

8) **Q:** What do I do if I find a rarity such as one of the birds listed at the end of my Atlas Field Card?

A: If you find a rare bird requiring verification, you should make an effort to have others document the rarity to support and corroborate your find. In any case, you should produce a written report documenting the rare bird on the form provided in your Atlas Packet.

9) **Q:** When should I plan to visit my block?

A: You will need to visit your block several times, mostly in spring and summer. Productive times to work in a block include mid to late May, all of June, and early to mid-July. Particular species will require special visits at "off" times, for example nesting by goldfinches is best confirmed from late July to early September, and Great Horned and Barred owls are most vocal at night in mid to late winter.

10) **Q:** When should I consider my block "done" and how long will it take me to do it?

A: Most blocks likely host over 90 bird species (some over 100), but the majority of observers will plateau at 80 to 85 species in a block. As a rule of thumb, a block is virtually "complete" at 85 species with half of the species probable or confirmed. Completing a block takes from 20 to 40 hours depending upon the skills of an observer. Many observers will require around 35 hours or a little less to reach 80-85 species with half probable and confirmed. For those blocks which are being quarterblocked, a minimum of 50-60 species per quarterblock is the goal and proportionately more time will be required to complete the block. For those who live in a block and will be providing sightings during the duration of the Atlas, or for those individuals who wish to do as thorough a job as possible reaching a high proportion of confirmed and probable species, minimum time in a block is irrelevant. If you feel you have "completed" your block and would like to continue to atlas, there are many unassigned blocks available on which to use your skills.

The MOSpreys Go To New Jersey ! ! !

by Norm Saunders

For the fifth year in a row, the Maryland Ornithological Society sent a team to the World Series of Birding in New Jersey. At first it looked as if our team wouldn't go this year because two members of last year's team dropped out due to other obligations. Almost at the last minute, though, we heard that the Audubon Naturalist Society's team was facing exactly the same dilemma. After a bit of hurried negotiations the two organizations agreed to send a joint team this year, the MOSpreys by name. Representing MOS were Hal Wierenga, the team captain, and Lynn Davidson. Representing ANS were Tom Feild, Leo Weigant, and David Farner. As it turned out, this was a great tactical move for both organizations. It allowed us to field a very competitive team while, at the same time, cutting each organization's costs way back. Further, all of the monies collected by MOS were dedicated in total to the Breeding Bird Atlas, at the request of Hal & Lynn and approved by the MOS Board of Directors.

So how did the MOSpreys do? Well they tallied 177 species, once again finishing second in Cape May County to Michael O'Brien's team. More to the point, however, even with a very short lead time, MOS received 74 pledges from 11 different chapters. Of the 74 pledges, 72 paid up (about in line with the previous four years), and grossed a total of $3,788.15. At the same time, due to our teaming up with ANS and also to the generosity of Hal & Lynn, our costs were cut dramatically, leading us the highest net total collected for all 5 years of our participation in the World Series: $3,168.15!

This has been my fifth year as "manager" and "financial coordinator" for the MOS team and it has been a lot of fun and very frustrating at the same time. Over those five years our team and our generous members have generated gross revenues of $16,768.55 for MOS's programs. Net proceeds to the organization were just under $9,100. I tried hard to find a corporate sponsor for our team, to no avail. Anyway, I'm burned out now on the World Series and I tendered my resignation to the MOS Board at the June Board Meeting. If anyone else out there is interested in taking on this job, please get in touch with President Paul Zucker. It is rewarding, fun, and it does good things for MOS, both in terms of tangible returns and wonderful public relations.

I want to thank most of all those this year and in the past who have pledged in support of our team. Here are this year's supporters:

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Batchelor
Lisa Bellamy
Joy & Mike Bowen
L. Jeanne Bowman
Carol & Don Broderick
Martha Chestem
Barry Cooper
Jane & Dennis Coskren
Patty Craig
Suzonne & John Davidson
Joan DeCarli
Helen & John Ford
Shirley Ford
Sam Freiberg
Jean & Larry Fry
Helene Gardel
Kay Gibbons
Deborah & Keith Gingrich
Helen & David Gray
Jim Green
Nelse Greenway
Maureen & Dave Harvey
Janet & Charles Hesler
Barbara Holloman
Betty & Frank Hughes
Anna Hutzel
Mary & Robert Keedy
Lynn Kenny
Margie King
Debi & Mike Klein (The Backyard Naturalist)
Jeanne Lacerte
Tim Larney
Candi & Rick Lee
Jeanne Leroy
Judy & John Lilga
Susan Lin
Parke John
Hugh Mahanes
Jule McCartney
Elayne & Jeff Metter
Janet Millenson
Ann Mitchell
Karen Morley
Paul O'Brien
Nancy & Doug Parker
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Betsy Perlman
Evelyn Phucas
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Sally Rowe
Ken Sander
Fran & Norm Saunders
Janet Shields
Don Simonson
Jo & Bob Solem
Patricia Tice
David Wallace
Mike Walsh
Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Sandy Webb
Harold Wierenga, Sr.
Ann Wing
Sherry & Paul Zucker

The Society's Reference Collections

by Karen Morley and Joy Wheeler

Did you know MOS has a large and valuable bird book and journal collection that is available to members and the public?

Book Collections are housed at various locations:

Irish Grove Sanctuary in Somerset County
Carey Run Sanctuary in Garrett County
Cylburn Mansion in Baltimore City

Reference Works—The Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore houses the two reference series contributed to the people of Maryland by MOS and available to everyone via the interlibrary loan program:

Life Histories of North American Birds
Handbook of the Birds of the World

Members have **donated many books and other materials** over the years, including:

Bent Series donated to Irish Grove by the Cam Lewis Family
Books of Birds of Prey donated to Cylburn by Jim Peters
Roger Tory Peterson Artwork for Field Guide donated by Bill Eichhorn

Exchange Journals—While we have many journals from various ornithological societies, we currently receive journals from:

New Jersey Audubon
Tennessee Ornithological Society Migrant
Connecticut Warbler
Brooks Bird Club
Audubon Naturalist Society
Wilson Ornithological Society
Wisconsin Society for Ornithology
Passenger Pigeon
Pennsylvania Birds
Colorado Field Ornithology
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
Indiana Audubon
Minnesota Ornithological Union
Buffalo Ornithological Society
Cornell's The Living Bird
Bird Watcher's Digest
Birding - ABA
Audubon Magazine (long run of issues even predating the current name)
Maryland Birdlife

We have long runs of The Auk and Irving Hampe's bound Condor, although we do not receive either one anymore. We also have past issues from the Journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Anyone who would like to use these materials should contact the MOS Librarian, **Joy Wheeler, at 410-825-1204.** Joy will also be able to give you more details about the collection.

Another Attempt on the Maryland Big Day Record

by Norm Saunders

On May 22nd, Marshall Iliff, Jim Stasz, Matt Hafner, and Andy Farnsworth set out to break Michael O'Brien's Maryland Big Day Record of 206 species. The impressive O'Brien count was tallied by Michael and his teammates in both 1996 and 1998. Marshall Iliff had made three previous attempts to beat the record, all of them unsuccessful. Would this be the year?

For those of you new to Maryland birding personalities, here's a rundown on the team:

Marshall Iliff is undoubtedly one of the premier field birders in Maryland, though his recent move to California leaves the field open for others who would dare to challenge his accomplishments. He is co-author of ***Field List of the Birds of Maryland***, has been the Middle Atlantic Coast editor for ***North American Birds*** for the past 4-5 years, and is currently a full-time trip leader with Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. He has twice been on the winning team of the Texas Birding Classic, a grueling five-days-with-no-sleep test of both birding skills and physical stamina.

Jim Stasz is one of those guys who has been around Maryland birds and birding for so long that his origins are lost in the mists of time. He too is a co-author of ***Field List of the Birds of Maryland*** and was responsible, almost single-handedly, for getting the annual North American Migratory Bird Day conceptualized and underway. He has a job somewhere but I honestly don't know how he finds time to work—he is the current leader for the All-County Maryland list (number of bird species seen in all 23 of Maryland's counties) with 157 species, well ahead of 2nd place Iliff who has 'only' 118 in every county. Further, Jim is third on the Maryland life list total, a mere 3 species behind leader Mark Hoffman and 2 behind 2nd place Paul O'Brien. Jim has been a mentor to many young birders as they got their start and this may well be one of his finest accomplishments.

Matt Hafner is a relative newcomer to the elite ranks of top-level field birders in Maryland. He's currently a student at the University of Maryland working on his Bachelor's in Zoology and admittedly spends more time in the field than he should, given his academic burden. Matt was a member of this year's winning team at the Texas Birding Classic. We look for some great accomplishments from Matt over the coming years.

Andy Farnsworth has been Marshall's teammate on 7 competitive Big Days (2 Texas Classics and 1 World Series of Birding in NJ). Andy has been birding since age 6, has been a leader for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, recently completed a Masters at Clemson studying nocturnal bird migration, is currently working with National Audubon on the 2001-02 Christmas Bird Count issue, and is going to Cornell this fall for a Ph.D. He and Marshall share a common affliction: they are both total Big Day addicts.

Jim and Matt scouted the Eastern Shore for 5 days prior to the 22nd and Marshall did some extensive searching in Western Maryland. Finally, he and Jim made a perilous Chesapeake Bay crossing in a small boat the afternoon of the 21st looking for unusual waterfowl. The team then drove to Cumberland, arriving there at 11:35 p.m. Here they listened to a calling nighthawk and waited for the minutes to tick off until the midnight hour.

The group counted from midnight to midnight on the 22nd, covering the entire state, from far-western Garrett County to the beaches and bays of Ocean City and the marshes of Somerset, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. The band of exhausted birders finished the day in the Elliot Island marshes, desperately searching for Least Bittern (which they missed). Despite the miss, they ended up with an almost unbelievable tally of 214 species, besting the old record by 8 species and setting a mark that may stand for a long, long time to come.

In Marshall's words, here are the highlights of their big, big day:

"Certainly the rarest bird of all 214 seen was the single EARED GREBE in partial breeding or nonbreeding plumage that we saw in the Poplar Island vicinity. We had good scope looks to give Talbot County its first-ever record and Maryland a new state late date by 3 days.

"Most Confusing Bird Award goes to a Royal Tern-sized sleek dark bird that was flying out the Ocean City Inlet just as we pulled up. I was watching the thing fly away from us as we were pulling up to park at the inlet, and I was totally befuddled as to what it might be. After watching it for a solid five seconds, it veered and banked, showing off a silvery underwing. SOOTY SHEARWATER!

"Best Head Rush Award goes to the migrant fiesta that we had at Broadford Reservoir, Garrett County. In about 25 minutes of birding we located not only the essential, bare bones migrants such as Myrtle and Blackpoll Warblers, but also ticked off lingering stakeouts of Northern Waterthrush, Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers, as well as total bonus birds such as Nashville Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow, and a total surprise Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. A Ring-necked Duck and two Hooded Mergansers on the lake hadn't been there the day before making a total of 7 code 3/code 2 birds during that time!

"The tragedy of the day was the Common Nighthawk that we got, but didn't need in Worcester. This bird was probably roosting on the warm pavement of Cedartown Rd. because the past few chilly days had him hungry and cold and tired. It was clearly not prepared for our Big Day Mobile to come speeding around the corner, and nor was I prepared for a bird to fly up in my headlights off the pavement. I'd like to say that I deftly swerved around the hapless caprimulgid..."

Major misses, again, lifted directly from Marshall's detailed write-up, were:

"We got all code 5 birds, and missed just 4 code 4s (Northern Gannet, King Rail, White-rumped Sandpiper, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Swainson's Thrush, and Blue-winged Warbler).

"In thinking about the day I only feel like we had one bad miss - BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH. The nuthatches are common on the Lower Eastern Shore and we had plenty of time to dig one out, indeed, we invested at least 30 minutes in the effort with stops in the Nassawango Creek region (4 stops) and Ocean City area (2 stops). I take full responsibility for the miss (as I do for all other misses—but note that Jim, Andy, and Matt take full credit for the 214 species that we did get...) as I decided to pass up the "lock" location at Deal Island for the species, where Michael O'Brien and company have never failed to get them on the late afternoon Deal Island runs they conduct. Oh well.

"Other misses were simply uncooperative birds, and perfectly excusable in my eyes. Other code 4 misses were NORTHERN GANNET (either we arrived too late in the day (7:35 p.m.) or the winds were too slack, but now for the second year in a row we have dipped on gannet while Michael O'Brien has had them in the vicinity either the day prior or the day after - Michael reports 20+ there 24 May); WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (our good shorebird areas didn't have them, although it is near peak migration time, I blame the Maryland DNR for not installing shorebird impoundments statewide); SWAINSON'S THRUSH (should rarely be missed on a night with any migration, but Wednesday morning was not such a night and Wednesday wasn't great either); BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (I did not have time to scout for this one in Washington County - this is the bane of many-a Big Day."

Marshall's full write-up of the record-breaking big day, along with a full list of birds sighted, can be found in the archives of MDOsprey for June 20th (see http://www.mdosprey.org).

Thinking of Buying Your Optics Online?

by Fran Saunders

If you're considering buying optics in the near future and if you're thinking of buying them online from Eagle Optics, did you know that 5% of your purchase price could be refunded to MOS? It's true! Let me tell you how.

When you have browsed Eagle Optics website to your heart's content and you're just about ready to pull out that credit card and order your dream binoculars or that scope you've wanted for years, take a moment and first point your web browser to the MOS website at:

http://www.mdbirds.org.

Near the top of the opening page of the MOS website you'll see a box labelled "Eagleoptics.com Optics for Birders." Clicking on this box will take you back to Eagle Optics but with one very important difference. Any purchases you make now will result in 5% being refunded directly to MOS.

No kidding—this really works! Already MOS has received refunds of over $150 and we have only talked about this feature at one MOS Board Meeting!

So, get those new optics you've been salivating over and earn some money for MOS at the same time! Just point to www.mdbirds.org then go from there to Eagle Optics via the link at the top of the opening page.

2003 MOS Scholarship Program
by Jean Fry

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers, park rangers, and youth leaders for scholarships to attend summer ecology and ornithology workshops which the National Audubon Society holds at its camps in Maine, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Each grant covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, and natural history. The value of each scholarship is from $600 to $900. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. Please note: Brochures from the camps are not available until January, so specific dates for camps are not known until then. General descriptions of the content of workshops may be obtained from the scholarship chairperson, MOS chapter presidents, or MOS chapter representatives Notification is made by early March.

MOS requires that its scholarship recipients work with young people. This includes teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers. Applicants need not be members of MOS, but they must be endorsed by a chapter or a member of MOS. Applicants must be eighteen years of age or older. Each candidate must submit the following:

1. A written statement in the form of a letter showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our wild heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment.
2. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who know of the candidate's interests, activities, abilities, and potential are requested. One of these letters should be from either a member of MOS or a chapter of MOS. It is extremely helpful if the letters of recommendation cite specific activities, accomplishments, or projects in which the applicant was involved in addition to personal qualities.
3. A current resumé.

The following people are helping the Scholarship Committee to recruit candidates in their respective chapters: Allegany—Dr. Gwen Brewer; Anne Arundel—Al Haury; Caroline—Debby Bennett; Cecil—Richard Donham; Frederick—Linda Keller; Harford—Dr. Dennis Kirkwood; Howard—Eileen Clegg; Jug Bay area—Dale Johnson; Kent—Pat Wilson; Montgomery—Barbara Holloman; Talbot—Liz Lawlor; Tri-County—Patsy Decker; Washington—Ann Mitchell. These individuals are able to answer questions about the program and assist in the application process.

Applications for the 2003 workshops are due by January 31, 2003. Please submit applications and direct questions to Jean Fry, Chairperson of the MOS Scholarship Committee, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132. Phone: 410-452-8539 E-mail: ffryjl@aol.com All chapter presidents and representatives are urged to see that this information is disseminated as widely as possible to all educators and youth leaders in the state. A broad base of applicants is needed to ensure wide participation and fairness in the selection process.

Sanctuary Committee Report
by Dotty Mumford

This past April the workdays at Irish Grove and Carey Run Sanctuaries were both successes with much-needed work being carried out at both locations. A big project at Carey Run, headed up by Doug Parker, was the replacement of the roof over the bathrooms. Doug and his wife Nancy began demolition on Thursday and were joined on Friday by George and Barbara Gafney and Jim McCann to finish off the demolition and start on the reconstruction. More workers joined in on the project on Saturday but by late afternoon the work crew was down to the Parkers, Gafneys, Jim McCann, and Bob Rineer. The last of the new roofing material was put down at 6:30 that evening, just as it began to rain. And rain it did! It poured all night and most of Sunday and I'm happy to report that the new roof passed the test—no leaks!

The Sanctuary Committee is still working on the reevaluation of their strategic plan. We're now in the process of having regional meetings with the local chapters that help maintain the sanctuaries. We hope, as a result of these meetings, to come up with a process that will improve the maintenance of our sanctuaries.

The workday schedule for the coming membership year is:

Irish Grove: 2 Nov 2002 and 5 Apr 2003
Carey Run: 26 Apr 2003

Least Tern Colony Request
by David Brinker

I am the DNR wildlife ecologist who serves as the Maryland DNR's technical expert on colonial nesting waterbirds. As you may know, Least Terns are listed as a Threatened Species in Maryland because of a continued loss of natural nesting sites and other habitat loss or degradation issues. The Least Tern population in Maryland has continued on a slow decline for the past 15-20 years, probably longer , but we do not have good data prior to 1985.

If anyone has information regarding a Least Tern nesting colony, please let me know of the location. In the past 15 years, a greater and greater proportion of Maryland's Least Tern population has taken to nesting on building roofs. Flat gravel topped building roofs represent alternative nesting habitat for Least Terns because these roofs mimic the barren, predator-free environments such as sandy shorelines, temporary sand bars, and other naturally barren habitats where Least Terns have traditionally nested. To Least Terns, roof tops represent islands in a sea non-suitable nesting habitat occupied by terrestrial predators, people, stray cats, etc. Roof-top Least Tern colonies are the most difficult waterbird colony to locate in Maryland. The increase in roof top nesting makes survey and census efforts more difficult each year because we cannot fly low enough over populated areas to locate roof top Least Tern colonies from a small airplane (our normal method of locating waterbird colonies).

Least Tern colonies are possible in any location within about 5-10 miles of the Chesapeake Bay. In the past we have had them in Harford, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Calvert, St. Mary's, Kent, Queen Annes, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties. Roof top colonies have occurred in all of these counties except Calvert, St. Mary's, Somerset and Worcester. The most frequently used roof tops appear to be schools, especially larger complexes that offer more habitat. For a while, high schools appeared to be favored, but we have now had them on several lower level school complexes as well. They have also occurred on the top of warehouses (Toyota and Mercedes Benz distribution centers) and other industrial buildings. So, look anywhere that you might find flat topped gravel roofs!

Anyone who observes Least Terns in numbers over a building roof should be suspicious and report these locations to us (the DNR). Remember these also represent great finds for the breeding bird atlas project. In the past, many of the roof top colonies that we know of were originally reported to us by bird watchers. We thank all those individuals many times over, please keep up the good work. Please do not be concerned about reporting colonies that we may already know of. I would rather politely tell 100 interested conservation-minded individuals that I already know of a colony than miss one new location because the observer thought I already knew of it. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail with your observations!!!!

If anyone wants to discuss potential roof top Least Tern colonies further, please call or e-mail me. If it takes me a while to call back or respond to an e-mail, please be patient - I'm out in the field!

Further, we track all waterbird colonies annually! Feel free to pass on any observations of any new waterbird colony that you find to us. Even though we routinely do aerial surveys to locate colonies, there are always a few new ones lurking out there. The most frequent finds from the general public and bird watching conservationists are mainland Great Blue Heron colonies and roof top Least Tern colonies. These two can be the most difficult to locate.

Dave Brinker
Maryland Natural Heritage Program
Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Office: (410) 744-8939
Office e-mail: dbrinker@dnr.state.md.us
Home e-mail: dbrinker@bellatlantic.net

Montgomery County Here We Come! The 2003 Annual MOS Conference
by Mike Callahan

We are off to Montgomery County for the 2003Annual MOS Conference and Business Meeting which will be held from May 16–18, 2003 at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac. The Conference has not been held in Montgomery County for over ten years and this is a new facility to MOS. Just last year the new ***Birder's Guide to Montgomery County Maryland*** was published and it is full of great birding sites that you may visit during the weekend. Mark your calendars now to join us for a great weekend of birding during Spring Migration.

The location offers loads of hidden birding spots in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Howard Counties as well as Northern Virginia and Washington, DC.

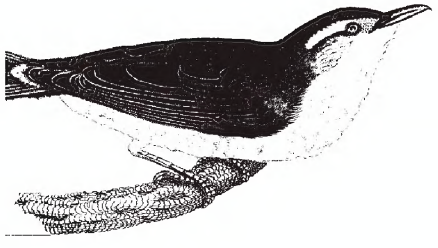
Your 2002 hosts will be the Montgomery County Chapter, likely with assistance from the Howard County and Patuxent Chapters. Mike Bowen has agreed to serve as Local Conference Coordinator.

If you are willing to help with the Conference Planning Committee (CPC) for this 2003 Conference, please contact Statewide Conference Chairman Mike Callahan at 301-490-9318 or raptorsrule@juno.com or Local Conference Coordinator Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com

Help Wanted—I have decided to go back to school and will no longer be able to serve as the MOS Statewide Conference Chairman after this year. The position is fun, exciting, and allows you to meet and work with members from all over the State. It has been very rewarding for me to work with the local Conference Committees over the past four years and should be rewarding to you too.

If you decide that serving as Statewide Conference Chairman for the 2004 Conference is something you would like to do, you won't be at it alone. I will mentor with you and even ease you in with on-the-job training with the 2003 Conference. Starting now will also allow you to be involved in early negotiations for the 2004 location facility contract. Please get in touch with MOS President Paul Zucker or me if you are willing to serve MOS in this capacity.

Thanks for your consideration and I look forward to working with you.



Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Salisbury State University
Salisbury, MD August 11, 2001

President Karen Morley called the annual business meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society to order at 7:45 p.m.

Announcements: Karen Morley welcomed everyone to the conference. She hoped everyone was enjoying the great birding this area of our state has to offer. Karen also thanked our conference co-hosting chapters of Caroline, Kent, Talbot and Tri-County for all their hard work.

Election of New Officers: Dave Harvey announced that the Nominations Committee put forth the following slate of officers: For President, Karen Morley, Baltimore County; for Vice President, Paul Zucker, Howard County; for Treasurer, Shiras Guion, Howard County; and for Secretary, Janet Shields, Washington County. Dave asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Karen Morley stated that these were the nominations from the Nominations Committee and asked for a vote. The vote was carried and Karen announced that the officers would assume their positions on September 1, 2001.

Awards: Karen Morley stated that as president one of the jobs which gives her the most pleasure is giving awards to people who have made contributions to MOS. The following awards were made:

Norm Saunders, who heads the MOS World Series of Birding Committee, explained that WSB is a competitive event for teams held in Cape May, New Jersey. For the past four years MOS has sent a team to Cape May. Because of the many pledges and donations to the team, it has been able to collect money and recognition for MOS. Norm introduced George Radcliffe. George is the teacher who organized a unique group of students into the Centreville Middle School World Series of Birding Team. Norm presented George Radcliffe with a Friend of the Society Award. Karen Morley also gave the award to the five members of the Centreville team present. George Radcliffe was given the awards to the twelve Centreville team members not present.

Chan Robbins presented a very special award to Don Donnald. The title of Master Maryland Ornithologist was given to Margaret and Don Donnald in recognition of over 30 years service to the Society, and for operating the Adventure Banding Station seven days a week, dawn to dusk, spring and fall from 1972 through 1995.

The Valued Service Award was presented to Carol Jelich for her exemplary efforts as our Environmental Fund of Maryland Liaison.

The Toil, Sweat, and Tears Award was presented to:

Ellen Lawler – for her work as local Conference Coordinator

Janet Shields – for her work on the conference

Shiras Guion – for her work as MOS Treasurer

An Overview of MOS for 2000 – 2001: Karen Morley gave an overview of the MOS year. A lot has happened in the last year. Because of the Schenkel bequest, MOS is required to have a professional audit. Two committees are becoming reactivated: Van Vogel, with many innovative ideas, is the new Education Committee chair, and Mark Johnson is heading the newly named Nest Records Committee. The bad news is that we had to terminate the Jug Bay Chapter for lack of members. The good news is that the Cecil Chapter now has enough members to add another Director to our board.

There have been two major issues before MOS this year.

1. The Snowy Owl in Frederick – led to birders and photographers ignoring birding ethics and trespassing on private property, upsetting property owners. Letters were sent to the property owners apologizing for these actions. An effort was made in the *Yellowthroat* and by local chapters to emphasize the MOS code of birding ethics.

2. Mute Swan Problem – DNR had a taskforce to make suggestions for solving this problem. Dale Johnson, MOS member, monitored their meetings for us. A letter was sent to the governor detailing MOS support to eradicate the Mute Swans in Maryland. (See minutes of the March, 2001 board meeting for more details.)

In the financial area MOS also had good news and bad news. The good news was the $500,000 Schenkel bequest to MOS. When the bequest was added to our non-real estate assets, MOS has over $1.3 million in assets. This represents exciting opportunities for MOS. Bob Rineer arranged for the appraisal of our sanctuaries and found they represent $1.4 million in real estate. With these assets, you can see why a full audit is required under Maryland law.

Last year Karen Morley said she wanted to look at the future direction of MOS and make sure the organization is on a firm financial foundation to accomplish future goals. In order to help accomplish this, she asked Marcia Watson-Whitmyre to chair the Long-range Planning Committee. The committee was tasked to evaluate each of our committees' goals for the future and then determine the direction MOS, as an organization, wants to take in the coming years and how our assets should be used to accomplish these goals.

The bad news is that with $1.3 million liquid assets and $1.4 million in real estate assets this year MOS will not break even. Our current income does not cover our current operating costs. The current rate of dues is a good deal for the members but it is not covering operating costs. In the next months, the board will be looking at raising dues so that we don't have to dip into our endowment funds to cover operating costs.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee – Maureen Harvey, Conservation chair, asked chapters and members to participate in making their views known to the state legislature. CARA will be coming up for a vote in the Senate and will provide funding for state wildlife conservation and education. Maureen has sample letters that may be used for this purpose.

Scholarship Committee – Chairperson, Jean Fry gave a brief history of the committee. Twelve scholarships were awarded this year. She noted

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2001 Business Meeting (Cont.)

(continued from previous page)

that over one hundred scholarships have been awarded since 1969.

Atlas Committee – Jane Coskren, chairperson of the Atlas Committee, announced that we would start our Atlas efforts in January 2002, and run through December 2006. She explained that MOS was the first organization in the United States to do atlasing. The benefits of updating our state breeding bird information will help the state and environmental organizations determine what programs and laws are needed to protect birds and habitat.

Conference Committee – Our conference chairperson, Mike Callahan, announced that we had two hundred twenty-six people attending the Salisbury conference. He thanked all of the committee members for their hard work. Next year the conference will be held June 7 – 9, in order to use the field trip data for the breeding bird atlas. He is reasonably sure that David Sibley will be the keynote speaker.

After thanking Mike Callahan and the Conference Committee for doing a superb job of organizing the conference, President Karen Morley declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Shields, Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society at The Wisp, McHenry, Maryland June 8, 2002

President Karen Morley called the annual business meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society to order at 7:25 p.m.

Announcements: Karen Morley thanked Allegany and Garrett Counties for all of their hard work on the conference. The next Board of Directors meeting will be Saturday, June 22, 2002 at Cylburn Arboretum. Chairpersons are needed for the Conference Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the Publicity Committee. People are also needed to serve on committees. Mark Hoffman, chairperson of the Investment Committee, has resigned. Martha Waugh, Howard County chapter, has agreed to take over the chairmanship of that committee. Van Vogel, chair of the Education Committee, is looking for people from across the state to serve on his committee.

MOS is establishing a paid, part-time State Sanctuary Coordinator position to plan, implement, and oversee sanctuary maintenance projects under the direction of the Sanctuary Committee. Anyone interested in the position should contact Sue Ricciardi.

Karen Morley introduced and thanked Larry Fry, Executive Secretary to the board for the last four years, for all of his efforts for MOS. Larry has resigned as Executive Secretary. Karen introduced and welcomed the new Executive Secretary, Eric Sprague. She also welcomed the new MOS Atlas Coordinator, Walter Ellison.

Election of New Officers: Dave Harvey announced that the Nominations Committee put forth the following slate of officers: For President, Paul Zucker, Howard County; for Vice President, Janet Millenson, Montgomery County; for Treasurer, Shiras Guion, Howard County; and for Secretary, Janet Shields, Washington County. Dave asked if there were

2002 Business Meeting (Cont.)

(continued from previous column)

any nominations from the floor. There were none. Karen Morley stated that these were the nominations from the Nominations Committee and asked for a vote. The vote was carried and Karen announced that the new officers would assume their positions on September 1, 2002.

Awards: Karen Morley stated that this is a time to celebrate some wonderful people who have dedicated their time and efforts to MOS. The following awards were made:

The Distinguished Career Service Award was given to Jean and Larry Fry for their many years of service of MOS.

The Valued Service Award was presented to:

David Brinker – for work as chairperson of the Research Committee

Donald Culbertson – for work on the Sales Committee, artwork, and staffing tables

Leslie Fisher – active president of the Cecil Chapter

Dave Harvey – Nominations Committee

Dale Johnson – for organizing conference arts exhibits

The Toil, Sweat, and Tears Award was presented to:

Kathy Klimkiewicz – for selecting an Atlas Coordinator

Glenn Therres – for selecting an Atlas Coordinator

Karen Morley – for selecting an Atlas Coordinator

Bob Rineer – for bringing the sanctuaries into the 21st Century

Van Vogel – for resurrecting the Education Committee

Fran Pope – for acting as local chairperson for the 2002 conference

Kevin Dodge – for organizing conference field trips

David Harvey – for providing a conference trip bird display chart

Gary Yoder received a Friend of the Society award in recognition of his donation of sculptured feathers to the conference.

Paul Zucker presented Karen Morley with the Exceptional Service Award in appreciation for the inspiring and devoted leadership of the society as its president for the last two years.

Committee Reports: Rather than have all the committee chairpersons come up and give a report, Karen summarized their reports and gave the highlights of what has been done over the past year.

Sanctuary Committee –Partners in Flight did a habitat report on the sanctuaries, and the committee is now working with the local chapters to evaluate and implement recommendations from the habitat report. There were some boundary issues at Carey Run and a survey was done. Another problem has been the maintenance of the two houses on the sanctuary properties. We have not been able to spend the time and money necessary for their upkeep. A big effort is now being made to rectify this.

Conservation Committee - The major effort this year was on the Sunday hunting bill. Testimony was given before the committee in Annapolis.

Education Committee – Van Vogel, the new chairman, has been coordinating efforts on the eastern shore between three middle schools. The schools now have their own bird clubs. They are starting some competitive birding and will be starting a website which will allow them to communicate with each other. Van has wonderful ideas for bringing young people into birding.

Scholarship Committee – The committee awarded ten scholarships this year.

Atlas Committee – The breeding bird project is a big, on-going project about which everyone has heard a great deal.

Publications – The committee is working very had to get *Birdlife* on CD. Norm Saunders has done a fantastic job of streamlining the *Yellowthroat* to cut our costs. We are also getting some computer help for the seasonal reports so that we can get *Birdlife* up to date.

Long-range Planning – Each one of the committees has put together a three to five year master plan explaining what direction they want MOS to take in the future. At the Board of Directors meeting in June this will be the main topic of discussion. All of the different committees will be looked at to determine if each one is still performing a valid function, if the function should be changed, or if the function should be expanded in light of the future goals of MOS.

Research Committee – One grant has already been given and another is in the works. There are also two more grant applications. The poster sessions at the conference were very well received.

Website – Fran Saunders has been working very hard on the MOS website. A privacy policy has been developed and will be on the website. The newest project is a logo sales store that will enable us to buy MOS logo items directly from the web.

World Series of Birding – This activity has not been looked at in the past as a money raising activity but more as a publicity activity for MOS. But in the past few years we have done very well raising money that was used in part to fund more scholarships. This year we had a joint team with Audubon Naturalist Society. As a result of that, our costs went down and our profit went up. The team came in second. WSB has raised over $3,100 and that money will go to the atlas effort.

Financial Situation of MOS: Karen Morley explained what makes up the assets of MOS. When MOS started out fifty-five years ago, we were just a small birding organization without a lot of money. The situation has changed dramatically over the last few years. One of the things Bob Rineer's surveys discovered was that our sanctuaries are now worth $1.4 million

Assets:

Sanctuaries (land only) – real property, does not generate income - $1.4 million

Endowments – There are five basic endowments.

Atlas has $42,000. This amount is drawn down and used. Estimated expenses are $50,000 per year. Income from $200,000 of the Schenkel bequest will also go to the atlas.

Education has an endowment of $153,000. This should generate approximately $5,000 per year for their budget. ($100,000 transferred from the Schenkel bequest this year)

Research has a $145,000 endowment

Sanctuary is now endowed with $295,000, which it is hoped will generate enough income to run the sanctuaries adequately and do the necessary

2002 Business Meeting (Cont.)
(continued from previous page)

maintenance work. ($200,000 is from the Schenkel bequest)

Scholarship has a $219,000 endowment.

There are two other endowments, which are historical artifacts the Investment Committee will be evaluating. They are the Operating/General Funds. They total $137,000. We use this money for emergencies and special projects or gifts. They generate about $5,000 to $6,000 a year in interest.

Total of All Endowments = $991,000

Operating Costs

As a result we have nearly $1,000,000 in the endowments and $1,400,000 in real estate. One of the concerns that we have is that we do not want to take the money away from our endowments. These endowments reflect the balance that this organization has made in the past between meeting today's needs and ensuring that the endowments will be there to support future generations of Maryland birders. Your dues pay for all of the rest of the things that happen in this organization. This past fiscal year, which ended in April 1, our income from dues, etc. was almost $35,000 but our expenses were almost $48,000. The difference came out of Operating/General Funds. If the dues are increased tonight, our income next year would be $45,000 and, if it doesn't pass, it will stay about $35,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Bylaws Changes: Tom Loomis, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, presented the two proposed bylaw changes to the membership.

Tom indicated the first changes are for signatures required for MOS checks. Section 1 of the article remains the same while Sections 2 and 3 have been changed He presented the changes as shown below for approval of the members.

ARTICLE XI. SIGNATURES

Section 1. All notes of the Society shall be signed by both the President and the Treasurer, or in the extended absence of the President, by the Vice President and the Treasurer.

Section 2. Expenses which result from normal operations, such as taxes, rent, insurance, utilities, printing and other items set forth in the yearly MOS fiscal budget as approved by the Board of Directors shall be called budget expenses. Checks drawn on the checking account for budget expenses as well as other items not included in the annual budget but approved by the Board of Directors, in amounts less than the amount set out in the Manual of Operations may be signed by either the Treasurer or the President.

Section 3. All checks exceeding the amount set out in the Manual of Operations, all checks drawn on the MOS money market/savings account other than as internal transfer of fund to other MOS accounts, and all requests for cash withdrawals from endowment/investment accounts other than as internal transfer of funds to other MOS accounts shall be signed by two Executive Council members.

It was moved and seconded that we accept the proposed changes to the bylaws. There was no discussion and the motion was approved. (Note: At the December 8, 2001, board meeting, the board voted to amend the Manual of Operations in reference to Article XI, Sections 2 & 3 of the MOS Bylaws requiring that checks of the Society drawn on the MOS checking account have one or more signatures depending on the amount of the check. The board amended the amount triggering the requirement of additional signatures to $10,000.)

Proposed Manual of Operations Changes: Tom Loomis indicated there was also a proposed Manual of Operations change to be approved by the MOS membership. This is a proposed change in the dues that was read to the membership by Tom Loomis as follows.

I. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

I.A Classes of membership, with dues

I.A.1.Individual: Members shall pay annual dues of $20.00.

I.A.2.Household: Annual dues of $25.00 shall include all members of the household sharing the same address. Only one copy of Society publications shall be sent to a household, but each member shall be entitled to vote at Society membership meetings.

I.A.3.Sustaining: Those members who pay annual dues of $50.00 per person.

I.A.4. Life: Those members who contribute the sum of $1,000.00 in no more than four annual installments in consecutive years. No further dues shall be required from these members. Life membership dues shall go to the Operating Fund.

(No change to Junior or Honorary memberships.)

It was moved to adopt the resolution and seconded. The floor was opened for discussion. One of the members gave his reasons for not approving of the dues increase. There was then a motion to move the question (which requires a two-thirds vote to approve it). If this motion were approved it would require the membership to go directly to a vote on the dues increase. If it was not approved, then discussion would continue. There was a hand count of the votes by Paul Zucker and John Malcolm. Karen announced that there was not a two-thirds majority to close the discussion. Therefore, discussion continued. Many opinions were given. Karen Morley repeated that the motion was whether we are going to raise the dues as proposed by the Board of Directors and as published in the *Yellowthroat*. There was a hand count vote taken and the motion was approved 174 to 27. Karen agreed that the MOS Board would look into the concerns raised by members regarding the operating costs of the organization, including looking into whether electronic distribution of publications and other membership information would be an effective cost saving tool.

President Karen Morley declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Janet Shields, Secretary

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting
March 16, 2002

President: Karen Morley
Vice President: Paul Zucker
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Secretary: Janet Shields
Executive Secretary: Larry Fry
Past President: Norm Saunders

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Long-range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Nominations: David Harvey
Publications: Janet Millenson
Records: Phil Davis
Research: Gwen Brewer
Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford
Scholarship: Jean Fry
Yellowthroat, World Series of Birding: Norm Saunders

Allegany: Gwen Brewer, Barbara Gaffney
Anne Arundel: Linda Baker, Phil Davis, Stephen Hult, Dotty Mumford, Norm Saunders
At Large: Walter Ellison
Baltimore: Jeanne Bowman, Helene Gardel, Pete Webb
Caroline: not represented
Carroll: Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Bob Ringler
Cecil: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick: Doug Parker, Nancy Parker, Mike Welch
Harford: Thomas Congersky, Jean Fry, John Nack, Joe Vangrin
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts, Jane Coskren, Paula Ecker, Don Waugh, Martha Waugh
Kent: Gail Regester, Pat Wilson
Montgomery: Helen Gray, Janet Millenson, Lydia Schindler, Eric Sprague, Rick Sussman
Patuxent: Fred Fallon
Talbot: Myra Novak, William Novak
Tri-County: Elizabeth Pitney
Washington: Judy Lilga

President Karen Morley called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Norm Saunders indicated that on Page 4 under Atlas the minutes should be corrected to indicate that Fran Saunders is working with Mark Wimer and Chan Robbins. Norm Saunders is not involved. The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Shiras Guion presented the Treasurer's report. She also noted that this year we will need a professional review rather than a full audit. It was moved and seconded that we use Bormel, Grice & Huyett in Laurel to perform the audit and send them a deposit of $1,000. This was approved.

President's Remarks: It is was great sadness Karen Morley announced that she had received a letter of resignation from Larry Fry as Executive Secretary. Larry has performed this job for the last three years. The board appreciates the wonderful job Larry has done. The latest *Yellowthroat* had an ad searching for a new candidate to take over Larry's job. Karen was pleased to announce that Eric Sprague has agreed to assume the position. Karen had Jane Coskren introduce our new atlas coordinator, Walter Ellison. Karen is still looking for a Publicity Committee chair.

Review of Action Items: Paul Zucker announced the following are still pending:

1. Comments are still requested regarding the printing of the next MOS brochure.

2. Almost all of the annual reports from chapter presidents and committee chairs have been received. There are still some reports due.

3. A Publicity chair is needed. A new Conference chair will be needed in 2004.

4. EFM still needs MOS photographs and information on accomplishments. The EFM

(continued at top of next page)

MARCH BOARD MEETING

(continued from previous page)

fundraising campaign is completed for this year but we should start planning for next year.

5. We are still working on ideas for electronic submission of records for the seasonal reports to Chan Robbins.

6. We always have a need for good applicants for scholarships. This is an ongoing item.

7. The language for By-Laws and Manual changes regarding signatures on checks was in the *Yellowthroat*. This item was completed.

8. There are two privacy statements for MOS. One is a condensed statement Fran Saunders put together to appear on the website that was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. Norm Saunders provided a more comprehensive policy statement that should be put into the Manual of Operations. This longer statement will be taken back and reviewed by the chapters. At the next board meeting it will be decided whether or not to put it in the Manual of Operations.

9. The request for bird guides and binoculars by the Kent County chapter as part of their youth program is ongoing.

10. Bill Scudder, Caroline County chapter, has requested additional support for a park ranger working with children.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Atlas: Jane Coskren reported that the committee with Walter Ellison has continued training sessions with the chapters. The two big needs of the committee are volunteers for doing the atlas and funds. They are in far better shape with volunteers for the atlas than they are for funds. Only $400 has been received from the *Yellowthroat* appeal. Karen Morley noted that around $50,000 a year is needed for the atlas. Some of it will come from endowments but a lot needs to be raised.

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is working with MOS on the atlas and has developed a database program as a pilot for the whole country. Patuxent has asked that we do an MOU between them and MOS that will give an outline of the responsibilities of each organization. Karen Morley wanted the board's support so that she can sign this MOU, after checking it for the necessary legal language. Walter Ellison has been reviewing the technical aspects of it. The goal is for individual data to go in every year; then the county and state coordinators will scrutinize it and the data will go out on an annual basis for the world to see. It was moved and seconded that we execute an MOU with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The motion was approved.

Budget: Paul Zucker reported that the Budget Committee met and drafted a budget, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Conference: Mike Callahan was unable to attend but sent a report to Karen Morley. The Conference Planning Committee has chosen three youth groups to benefit from the silent auction and raffle. Counter Culture Coffee Company is donating shade grown coffee for both dinners. The Wild Bird Center of Silver Spring will be the bookstore again this year. The research paper session will be replaced with a research poster session during the wine and cheese social. The Bolger Center in Potomac, Montgomery County, is being considered as the site of the 2003 conference.

Conservation: Maureen Harvey gave the Conservation Committee report. The committee this year has given money to several projects. It sponsored an issue of the *Conservation Report*, which is the Maryland Conservation Council's weekly letter on environmental issues and concerns. The cost was $300. They also plan to give $200 to the Humane Society of U.S. for their Canada Goose control project. Another project, Farmers and Hunters Feed the Homeless and Hungry, will receive $150 to help process deer carcasses. Maureen has received a notice from the Nanjemoy people that White Rock Industries has reapplied for their gravel mining business. In Talbot County there is a development going up by our Mill Creek Sanctuary and people are monitoring its impact on Mill Creek.

Investments: Mark Hoffman, who is in charge of our Investments Committee, was not able to attend but he and Karen Morley have talked. Karen explained that we are going to be making some changes in our endowment investments. The president, treasurer and Mark, as chairman of the Investment Committee, need to talk with the stockbrokers who manage our account and give them directions about what we want to do with our money. Mark would like an indication by the board of a direction or investment strategy before this meeting with the stockbrokers takes place. The board felt that it is the job of the committee to bring a proposal of investment strategy to the board for their discussion and approval

Long-Range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre reported that they are still collecting proposals from committees. So far in hand there is material from Publicity, Website, Budget, Conservation, Gifts, Nest Records, Sanctuary, Scholarships, and Education. Marcia plans to have a meeting of her committee soon to review all the plans that have been submitted and come to the June board meeting with some detailed information on how they are going to move forward. One charge the Executive Committee has explicitly given Long-range Planning now that they have a fair number of committee reports in hand is to take a good look at the overall responsibilities of the committees given the work that we as an organization do as a whole. Then the committee will make some recommendations on whether the committees are properly aligned to do the work.

Publications: A report on the progress of putting *Birdlife* on CD-ROM was given by Janet Millenson. The goal is to make the back issues of *Birdlife* accessible and searchable. She has talked with quite a few vendors about archiving Birdlife and was given a price for producing a master and 1,600 CDs. It was suggested that it would be more cost effective to pay one firm to have a master CD made and go elsewhere to have them reproduced. Janet checked with the vendor and was told a master disc could be made for $6,882. She will check on price quotes for reproducing the CDs and report back to the board. It needs to be determined how many discs should be produced and how much should be charged MOS members for a copy. It was suggested a sales strategy should be formulated to market the CD. Karen Morley felt we need a group of people to do some brainstorming about an overall sales strategy for all of our MOS items, not just the CD. She asked Larry Fry to look into this issue.

Records: Phil Davis explained the function of the Records Committee. It is charged with reviewing sighting reports for rare and unusual birds in Maryland and the District of Columbia. In the process of the review, the committee comes up with an opinion on whether or not the record is accepted. Perhaps their most important function is as a repository for all of the data submitted to the committee. Phil also announced there were three new members to the committee replacing outgoing members. The new members are Barry Cooper, Matt Hafner and Bonnie Ott. The chairman is Paul O'Brien. Everything you want to know about the committee is on the MOS website.

Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford reported that the Strategic Planning Committee of the Sanctuary Committee worked out a budget for the next fiscal year, which incorporated items from the committee's long-range plan. Some of the recommendations from the Partners in Flight report were used. It was requested that the endowment for the sanctuary fund be increased to carry out the long-range plan.

The committee met to review the recommendations of the Partners in Flight management plan for the sanctuaries. It was decided which of their recommendations the committee would like to see implemented. Decisions on the management of each sanctuary were discussed and, in the future, will be discussed with the local chapter members for their input along with their thoughts on the Partners in Flight plan. Bob Rineer has had Carey Run surveyed by a professional surveyor and the boundaries are now marked.

Scholarship: Jean Fry announced that there were nine scholarships awarded with the possibility of another one being awarded. A complete list of the winners will be published in the next *Yellowthroat*. Most of the winners are choosing to attend Maine Field Ornithology. Income from scholarship investments last year was $5,982.57. The committee has used $880 for each of the Maine Field Ornithology camps and the Natural History of the Maine Coast. They have funded six scholarships at $880 for a total of $5,280. This left $702. Jean had asked the executive board if they would give her $180 more to fund one additional scholarship, to which they agreed.

World Series of Birding: For the last four years Norm Saunders reported that we have had a World Series team. It looked like we would not have a team this year until the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) asked MOS to join them in sponsoring a team. ANS would have three people on the team and MOS two. We would pay the expenses of our members and ANS would pay for their members. ANS would take donations from their members and MOS would take donations from our members. The costs would be split equitably. Norm Saunders explained the details need to be worked out with ANS and asked the board if they would approve fielding a team. It was moved and seconded for MOS to, if possible, field a World Series of Birding team in conjunction with ANS. This was seconded and approved. It was also moved and seconded to use proceeds from the 2001 – 2002 budget

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March 2002 Board Meeting

(continued from previous page)

year's World Series of Birding to fund an additional scholarship this year. The motion was carried.

EFM: Marcia Balestri was not able to attend but left a report that was read by Karen Morley. During Marcia's trip to the New Orleans meeting, paid for by EFM, she learned a lot about the inner workings and lingo of the fundraising community. The theme of the meeting was technology, so the emphasis was on tools (mainly computer tools) to make fundraising more productive. She also attended a seminar on how to approach corporations for funding and volunteers. Marcia has visited three MOS chapters to discuss EFM: Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Washington. MOS has received $385.36 directly from the Baltimore City 2001 campaign and $1,368.58 in distributions from EFM for both the 1999 and 2000 campaigns for a total of $1,753.94 since the last MOS board meeting.

Karen Morley explained that EFM would like to receive publications from its member organizations to share among the EFM membership. MOS would need to mail out about twenty copies of each issue of the *Yellowthroat* to the EFM membership. Since sending out the *Yellowthroat* would cost us money, Karen asked for the board's approval. This was seconded and approved by the board.

Website: Fran Saunders, who was unable to attend, asked Norm Saunders to raise an issue for her. The nature store on the MOS website is no longer offering optics. They were handled through Eagle Optics, which is no longer associated with our website nature store. Eagle Optics contacted us explaining that they now have an affiliate program where MOS can elect to become affiliated with them. Then, if anybody reaches Eagle Optics through the MOS website, MOS would receive five percent of the sale. A motion was made and seconded to put Eagle Optics on the MOS website with a link. The board approved this motion.

OLD BUSINESS

MOS Insurance Policies –Karen Morley explained at the last meeting that MOS insurance coverage was being evaluated. Currently we are paying $2,400 a year for insurance. There are two policies. One is a policy covering the officers and directors performing within the scope of their authority. The other is a general liability policy, which covers MOS liability when we are out birding, negligence by officers, and it covers our property at Irish Grove and Carey Run and our storage unit. Based on the latest evaluation of our needs, we found we needed additional coverage. Comprehensive crime coverage was also added for Irish Grove, Carey Run and the storage unit. The houses at Irish Grove and Carey Run are insured for $50,000 each, which would allow us to replace them with a bunkhouse type facility if they were destroyed. Our general aggregate is $2,000,000 for any specific activity. Each occurrence is covered to $1,000,000. Each chapter is listed as a named insurer in this policy. Karen noted that a million dollar umbrella policy has also been added. The additional cost of this is around $1,400. All of this is reflected in the budget for next year. The issue which comes up now is that about $2,400 was budgeted for the current year. The bill for the new, improved liability insurance comes up in April, the month before our new fiscal year begins. Karen needed board approval to take money from our operating funds to cover this period. It was moved and seconded that we transfer the money necessary, around $1,400, from operating funds to activate the new policy now in order to provide MOS with optimal insurance coverage. The coverage for next year is in the budget proposal for 2002 – 2003. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Audubon Society Christmas card: Doug Parker, Frederick chapter, brought to our attention that one of the Christmas cards the Audubon Society was selling highlighted a bird MOS does not particularly like, a mute swan. He drafted a letter for Karen Morley to sign and send to Audubon explaining who MOS is and the mute swan issue. The letter makes the point that we feel it is inappropriate for an environmentally sensitive organization to portray this bird in any manner other than the destructive, non-native, unwelcome species that it is. Audubon is asked not to depict this bird on their greeting card, etc. Karen Morley will be sending the letter to Audubon.

2002 –2003 Budget: Paul Zucker presented the new budget. The budget year ends April 30. This budget was based on an estimate of the money to be received by the new dues increase. The idea was that our regularly occurring expenses should be funded with our regularly occurring income. There is a category for one-time expenses under Special Expenses. The items under Special Expenses are things that are important for us to do this year and will be taken out of our General Fund. Under Research Fund, Paul explained that it is the only category that has carry over in order to be able to award a research grant between the two fiscal years. All of the research money was not spend in the previous year. The best estimate for the accumulation of unspent funds through this year would bring the total to about $6,000, which would be available for grants in addition to the $2,750 of anticipated earnings. The budget committee thought that this carryover sum should be reduced, but Gwen Brewer, Research Committee chair, pointed out that the Manual of Operations allows for carryovers up to $7,500. Paul Zucker modified the original budget proposal to reflect the higher figure, and will bring up the issue of the carryover along with modifications to the Manual at a future meeting.

Paul Zucker, as Budget Committee chair, moved that the budget for the coming year be accepted as altered. This was seconded and approved.

Paul Zucker moved that $100,000 of the Schenkel bequest be transferred to the Education Committee endowment to support their increased activities and $200,000of the Schenkel bequest be transferred to the Sanctuary Committee endowment to support their increased activities. The motion was seconded and approved.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. All Chapters are to review the text written by Norm Saunders on the privacy issues and it will be discussed at the June meeting for possible inclusion into the Operations Manual.

2. The Atlas Committee is tasked to draft an MOU for Patuxent on the issue of data entry and associated questions.

3. The Investment Committee is tasked to address the issue of the investment philosophy and to make a proposal to the board in that regard.

4. Those committees who have not submitted their long-range plans need to do so now.

5. Publications and Larry Fry need to develop a strategy for pricing and selling not only the *Birdlife* CD but also a general sales strategy for our other MOS items.

6. The Sanctuary Committee in conjunction with the webmaster needs to arrange to have the Partners in Flight report appear on the MOS web page.

President Karen Morley declared the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Shields, Secretary

MOS CALENDAR

(continued from back cover)

of Jug Bay's vital wild rice plants. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride at 5 p.m., or directly at the Jug Bay boat landing at 5:30 p,m. Return to dockside at about 7:30 p.m. Bring water - not too much. Limit of 12, possibly extendable to 16. Call Fred Fallon (301-249-1518) for info and reservations.

Saturday, September 14

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Tuckahoe State Park. Meet at the Queen Anne's County side of the lake area at 8 a.m. Leader: Danny Poet. For more information, contact Danny at 410-827-8651 or dannypoet@hotmail.com.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. The Seasons at Fair Hill - Fall. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fair Hill Nature Center - Covered Bridge Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Scott Powers, at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Hart-Miller Island. Gene Scarpula will lead us on a 7-8 mile trek around Hart-Miller Island to look for migrating shorebirds. Buff-breasted, Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers are possible. Be sure to bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, and bug spray. We will meet at Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park (2nd Street just west of College Terrace) at 5:15 a.m. Gary Smyle is coordinating the trip and space is limited. Call Gary (301-663-0055) for reservations.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Exceptional habitat makes the park an ideal place to see a large variety of fall migrants along with the local favorites. If you are wondering whether birding may be a pastime you'd enjoy, check this trip out! Randy Robertson (410-273-9029) and Don Soubie will be starting at the Rock Run Mill at 7:30.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Winged Wonders of Bon Secours. A leisurely nature walk to observe the natural beauty of this lovely private property. Will be looking at birds, butterflies and flora. Great for beginners. Meet at the visitor parking lot 8:30 a.m. Facilities available. Leaders: Michele Wright 410-465-6057 and Eva Sunell 410-995-0029.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Meadowside Nature Center And Area. 1/2 day. "Challenging" fall warblers and other migrant land birds. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Nature Center. Call for directions; no

MOS CALENDAR

(continued from previous page)

reservations necessary. Leader: Rick Sussman 301-774-1185.

Sunday, September 15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Meyer's Station. Confusing fall warblers and woodland birds expected at this private nature preserve. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, George Thomas, at 410-647-5082.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eden Mill. A bird walk and banding demonstration will highlight this trip to an excellent locale. Many migrating warblers may be seen through the binocs and in the hand!! Master bander Dr. Mark Johnson (410-692-5978) will meet the participants at the trailhead parking area just beyond the mill at 7:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Confusing Fall Warblers at Rockburn Branch Park. Rigorous walking along field edges and hilly woodland trails focusing on confusing fall warblers. Woodlands and field edges may produce a wide variety of species. Good view of the sky for flyovers. Barred Owl possible and Olive-sided Flycatchers turn up here infrequently. Hiking boots recommended. Meet at parking lot of Rockburn Elementary at 7:00 a.m. Facilities available. Leader: Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk to Ferry Neck for birds of woodland, field, and waterfront. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. For further information, contact the leader, Les Coble, at 410-820-6165 or lescoble@Friend.ly.Net.

Monday, September 16

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A trip to Washington Monument State Park for migrating warblers and a hawk watch. Meet at the upper parking lot at Washington Monument at 8:00 a.m. Contact the leader, Dave Weesner, 301-432-7718, for directions and information.

Tuesday, September 17

MEETING. Patuxent. "The Search for Lost Species" by Scott Weidensaul. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent Research Refuge Visitors Center on Powder Mill Road, Laurel. For further info call Mike Quinlan at 301-805-4278.

Wednesday, September 18

MEETING. Montgomery. "Cranes of China" by Bob Ringler, Carroll County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

Thursday, September 19

MEETING. Caroline. TBA. Check http://ces.washcoll.edu/birds.html#caroline.

Saturday, September 21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Join Linda Baker and Ranger Brian Campbell at this good local birding spot for a good variety of birds. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Jones Station Park & Ride. For further information, contact Linda Baker at 410-431-7225.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants & Hawk Watch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Richard Donham, at 610 - 932-0634.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Jug Bay. Greg Kearns will take us on a boat trip to search for rails. Meet at Urbana Park & Ride South Lot at 6:30 a.m. Space is limited, so please call Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098) for reservations.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Delaware Coast. 3/4 day. This trip is designed especially for beginning shorebird enthusiasts, but all are welcome. Contact leader for reservations and the start time and location. Leader: Cyndie Loeper 301-530-8226

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Oxon Hill Park and nearby Selby Bay on Potomac. Migrant warblers and other passerines; shorebirds. Leader: David Mozurkewich (301-459-3375). Meet at Beltway Plaza at 7:30 a.m. or directly at the entrance to the park at 6:30 a.m. for an especially early start.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, DE, for migratory shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Herndon Steilkie, at 410-822-3901.

Sunday, September 22

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Dolly Sods Chuck Hager will once again lead his faithful troops to observe the Brooks Bird Club banding operation. A great chance to observe warblers and other Fall migrants up close and personal. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Greene St. Park & Ride on Rt. 220 South. Call Chuck for info. (301) 689-5344.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Rocks State Park. More migrating fall warblers will be on the list when you join leader Deborah Bowers (410-692-9741) for a walk in this premier location along Deer Creek. Meet Debbie at the park HQ located on Rocks Chrome Hill Road at 7:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. President's Walk At Seneca. 1/2 Day. Participation of all former Chapter Presidents is encouraged and everyone is welcome. Bring lunch for a post-walk picnic. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at parking lot at end of Riley's Lock Road of River Road. Honorary Leaders: Current and former presidents. Contact Sam Freiberg at 301-652-7543 for more information.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Horsehead Wetland Center, Grasonville for waterfowl and wetland birds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Scott Crabtree, at 410-643-3237 or by email at crabtree@myshorelink.com.

Monday, September 23

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking on paved path around the lake. Woodlands and marshy areas provide the possibility of many surprises. Warbler and hawk migration should be in full swing. Meet at the Broken land Parkway lot at 8:00 a.m. No facilities. Leader: John Maloney 301-317-4961.

MEETING. Tri-County. "Birds and Other Wildlife of Kenya" by Joe O'Hara. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fox Room of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, September 24

MEETING. Washington. Our Potluck dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Wilbur Hershberger's talk is titled "Songs of Insects" and will be followed by a field trip led by Wilbur on Saturday, September 28. The meeting is held at Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center. Call Judy Lilga at 301-432-2276 for directions.

Wednesday, September 25

MEETING. Cecil. Middleton Evans, a Maryland nature photographer, will present a slide show and tips on taking great bird photos. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Elkton High School located in Elkton, MD. For further information, contact Rick Lee at 410-287-0415.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Waggoner's Gap. A mid-week hawk watching extravaganza (with cooperation from the weather and prevailing winds) at a terrific Pennsylvania hawk-watch location. Broad-winged migration should be in full swing. Meet leader Phil Powers (410-679-4116) at the I-95/MD 152 Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

Friday-Sunday, September 27-29

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Kiptopeke, Fisherman's Island NWR, Virginia. Peter Hanan will lead this 3-day trip to the lower Eastern Shore for shorebirds. Please call Peter at 410-721-2658 by September 23 to make arrangements for the trip.

Saturday, September 28

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Cape May, NJ Fall Migration. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Tom Raub, at 717-687-0246.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Lily Pons. Gary Smyle will lead a beginner's trip for children to discover the birds and other wildlife at Lily Pons. We will see migrants, herons, and other waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Lily Pons. Contact Gary (301-663-0055) for details.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Migrant Hike at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate to rigorous walking along hilly wooded paths and along the river. Field areas provide nice edge habitat so expect some sparrows. Warblers, vireos (Philadelphia has turned up here in former years), hawks and possible Red-headed woodpecker. Meet at Trotter road parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Grass may be wet, hiking boots recommended. No facilities. Leader: Stan Arnold 410-768-7339.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Potomac River Paddle. 1/2 day. Riverine species and some migrants. The Sycamore Island Club will provide canoes for our explorations around the Glen Echo area. A waiver of liability will be required for each participant. The trip is limited to 18 participants. Call leader for reservations and more information. Leader: Dave Winer 301-229-8963.

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Colmar Manor, Bladensburg Waterfront Park, and boat trip on the Anacostia. Meet at Beltway Plaza at 7:30 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. directly at the waterfront for an especially early start. Leaders: Fred Fallon (301-249-1518); Mike Donovan (301-277-3930). Half-day trip.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Bombay Hook NWR and other Delaware bayshore locations for waterfowl, shorebirds and other migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north parking lot of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact the leader, Betty Pitney, at 410-543-1853.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Wilbur Hershberger will lead the trip to find a listen for insects (see

MOS CALENDAR

(continued from previous page)

topic of Sept. 24th meeting). We will meet Wilbur at the parking lot next to the Visitor Center of Greenbriar State Park at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, call Janet Shields, 301-416-7109.

Sunday, September 29

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Lincoln's Sparrow Search at Mount Pleasant. Moderate to difficult walking through the extensive fields of this Howard Conservancy property. Sparrow hotspot with high probability of Lincoln's sparrows. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Hiking boots suggested, facilities available. Meet at 8:00 a.m. by the shed on the entrance road. Leader: Robin Todd 410-313-8154.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Pickering Creek Environmental Center for birds of grassland and forest. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Mark Scallion, at 410-776-4585 or by email at mscallion@pickeringcreek.org.

October

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Hawk Mountain, PA. Larry Zoller will lead a trip to the famous Hawk Mountain Sanctuary sometime in early October when the weather and wind are right. On a good day, you'll see large kettles of Broad-winged and/or Sharp-shinned Hawks. If you are interested in going, call Larry at 410-987-9354 and he will email or call you to confirm the exact date several days in advance.

Thursday, October 3

MEETING. Frederick. Dave Smith will tell us all about his great trip to Alaska with Carol, his wife and Wil and Donna Hershberger. Meet at Monocacy Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Call Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098) for details.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Mariner Point Park. A great location for beginning birders to join experienced field trip leader Tom Congersky (410-676-6489). A wide variety of sparrows, warblers and thrushes migrate at this time and the park is a local hot spot. Meet Tom at the last parking lot near the pavilion at 8:00 a.m.

Friday-Sunday, October 4-6

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Cape May. An overnight trip to Cape May to watch hawks and other migrants at one of the great hot spots in the country. For information contact Dave Smith (410-549-7082).

Friday, October 4

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birds of Alaska" by Dr. Larry and Jean Fry. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, October 5

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Introduction to Sparrows at Meadowbrook. Confused by those beautiful brown birds? Learn the basics on sorting out those stunning sparrows by sight and sound. Easy walking but possibility of high grass and wet areas. High boots recommended, no facilities. Meet in parking lot of Park & Ride at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Bird walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. No reservation needed. Meet at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518.

Sunday, October 6

FIELD TRIP. Caroline. Christian Park, Greensboro, MD. Meet at the Greensboro Elementary School at the corner of Rt. 313 and North Main Street at 8 a.m. Leader: Bill Scudder. 410-479-3590.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants & Hawk Watch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Elk Neck State Park. Phil Powers (410-679-4116) leads yet another trip to this nearby hawk observation point. Accipiters and falcons should be starting to migrate and Elk Neck provides the opportunity for great looks. Meet at the I-95/MD 155 Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Birding for Beginners at Font Hill. Learn the basics of how to identify birds, using and choosing binoculars and field guides. Easy walking on paved paths, boardwalks and mown grass. This is a wonderful little wetlands park. Meet at park sign off Font Hill Drive at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Mike McClure 410-531-2780.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Layhill Park. 1/2 day. Migrant sparrows, warblers and other woodland and edge birds. Waterproof boots and long pants essential. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at first available parking space on left after pulling into park. Call leader for reservations and directions. This trip is limited to 8 participants. Leader: Rick sussman 301-774-1185.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Jean Ellen Dupont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary in Bozman for Waterfowl and landbird departures and arrivals. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. For further information, contact the leader, Amy Bourque, at 410-745-9283 or by email at abourque@audubon.org.

Tuesday, October 8

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Gwynn Acres. Easy walking on paved path through the woodlands. Good chance of Barred Owl. Great for beginners. Meet at split rail fence on Columbia Rd across from Ram's Horn Row at 8:00 a.m. No facilities. Call Bonnie Ott for info 410-461-3361.

MEETING. Patuxent. "Tracking the Elusive Black Scoter" by Matt Perry. 7:30 p.m. at College Park Air Museum Annex, off Paint Branch Parkway in College Park. For further info call Fred Fallon at 301-249-1518.

Thursday, October 10

MEETING. Howard. "Caribbean Birding on the Greater and Lesser Antilles," by Gail Mackiernan. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 54770 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Kurt Schwarz at 410-461-1643.

MEETING. Talbot. "Song Dialects in Bobolinks: Is it Important to Sound Like Everyone Else?" by Dr. Jean Woods, Curator of Birds at the Delaware Museum of Natural History. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank Maryland Room (basement meeting room), Goldsborough and Harrison Streets, Easton.

Saturday-Sunday, October 12-13

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Cape Charles, VA visiting Eastern Shore NWR, Kiptopeake State Park and Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Islands with an optional overnight for Sunday morning birding. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north parking lot of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact the leader, Alan Deward, at 410-352-5590.

Saturday, October 12

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Town Hill. Hawk watcher extraordinaire aka. Ray Kiddy will be high atop the mountain searching for Fall migration of Raptors. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mason's Barn Park & Ride, Exit 46 East Cumberland I- 68. Bring lunch and drink- hopefully we'll have a gorgeous Fall day. Contact Ray at (301) 729-1972 for info.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Flag Ponds, Calvert County. Visit several good birding areas in southern Maryland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Nick Nicholson, at 410-721-4814.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. For further information contact the leader, Brian Moyer, at 410-306-0967 (W) or 410-378-5307 (H).

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Lily Pons with Mike Welch. Good for beginners. Possible American Bittern, Nelson Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and other fall migrants. Meet at Lily Pons at 7:30 a.m. Call Mike for further information (301-874-5828).

ANNUAL PICNIC. Harford. All-you-can-eat roast beef, crab soup and much more. 2:00 p.m. at Capa Field at the Edgewood area of APG. Make reservation by October 1 by calling Tom Congersky at 410-676-6489.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Spectacular Sparrows (Bonnie's favorite spots). The ULTIMATE trip for sparrow lovers. How many sparrows can we find in one day? Over 1000? Can we hit 12 species? I'll take 10 people that want to sparrow from dawn till we drop and count as many individual sparrows as we can. Be prepared for hours of VERY difficult walking through every type of habitat. Call Bonnie if you are interested to sign up. 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Columbus Day Chase. Destination and leader to be announced. Seek out one or more rare migrants on the Eastern Shore. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information contact Wayne Bell at 410-820-6002 or wayne.bell@washcoll.edu.

Sunday, October 13

FALL PELOT SANCTUARY CLEANUP. Caroline. Noon. Contact: Bill Scudder 410-479-3590. Youth groups welcome.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. The Big Sit at Centennial Park. Join us for the 4th annual BIG SIT. Originated by the New Haven bird club with the objective of counting as many species as possible in 24 hours from one spot. We circumscribe a 17 foot circle and any bird heard or seen from within our chosen area is fair game! Past highlights are Sora, Merlin and Bald Eagle. Can we top our previous high of 55? Great for beginning birders. Bring a chair and sustenance and join us for a little while or all day. Meet at the wildlife end of Centennial Park on the Rt. 108 side. Facilities available. Leader: Kurt Schwarz 410-461-1643.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Little Bennett Park. 1/2 day. Everyone welcome, especially new birders, to enjoy this area of varied habitats and bird life. Late warblers and vireos, early sparrows,

MOS CALENDAR

(continued from previous page)

and some raptors possible. Contact leader for reservations, time and place to meet. Leader: Gemma Radko 301-606-4373.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk to the Bay Hundred area for a variety of land- and waterbirds Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. For further information, contact the leader, Les Roslund, at 410-763-8169 or Lroslund@bluecrab.org.

Monday, October 14

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Waggoner's Gap. This place is so fun, we're goin' there again! Beside the fact that accipiter and falcon migration is in full swing, Waggoner's Gap is widely believed to be the best place around to see migrating golden eagles. Hope for good winds and weather and join Dr. Mark Johnson (410-692-5978) and his washed up scope bearer Randy Robertson (410-273-9029) at the MD 152/MD 147 Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m. This could be a long one so bring food and beverages.

Tuesday, October 15

MEETING. Allegany. "Shade Grown Coffee", a Power Point program on the virtues of shade grown coffee by Jessica Kerns-McClellan. She will also tell of her adventures in Costa Rica. Jessica is a former student of our own Gwen Brewer. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Board of Education building, 108 Washington St., Cumberland. Contact Barbara Gaffney (301) 895-4646 for info.

Wednesday, October 16

MEETING. Montgomery. "Caribbean Birding" by Gail Mackiernan, Montgomery County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

Thursday, October 17

MEETING. Caroline. "The Art of Bird Carving" presented by Eddie Cheezum. 7:30 p.m. at the Choptank Electric Cooperative, corner of Bus 404 & Rt. 328, Denton.

Saturday, October 19

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Audrey Carroll to look for hawks and fall migrants. Watch for a Merlin, Bald Eagle, or rare sparrows. Meet at the Park & Ride, Rte. 75 just south of I-70 at 7:30 a.m. Call David Smith (410-549-7082) for information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Birds & Bison - Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905) will be spotting local birds and our own native buffalo herd. Meet Dennis at the Churchville Presbyterian Church at 8:00 a.m. From there Dennis will hit some prime birding spots and culminate the morning at the farm of chapter members Emily and Paul Hines.

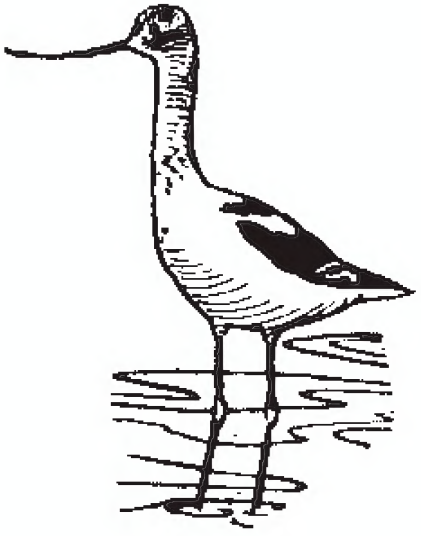
FIELD TRIP. Howard. Hawk Watch at Mount Pleasant. Join the group for just an hour or all day to sit and watch the hawks fly. Bring a chair and sustenance for a relaxing day of raptor watching. Great for beginning birders. Meet at the shed on the entrance road at 9:30 a.m. Facilities available. Leader: Ralph Geuder 410-788-3764.

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Trip to lower Patuxent parks - Magruder's Landing, Aquasco Farm among others. Late migrants, wintering sparrows, possible. Leader: Fred Shaffer (410- 721-1744). Meet at Bowie Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m. Half-day trip.

Sunday, October 20

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. "Big Sit Day" at Kinder Farm Park. Join Lynn Kenny and Paul Speyser in a 17-foot circle for a fun day of birding in the same spot. Starts at 5:45 a.m. and runs until dark. Call Paul at 410-266-5669 to tell him when you would like to come.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants & Hawk Watch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Turkey



Point Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Lock #12/Holtwood Dam. Some late migrating sparrows and warblers might still be moving along with the start of the waterfowl flights. Leader Joe Vangrin (410-838-1921) will meet participants at the MD 543/MD 165 Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Fall's Final Fling at Schooley Mill Park. Moderate to difficult walking along field edges and through woodlands. A beaver created wetland area rounds out the variety of habitats. Sparrow migration in full swing with late warblers and hawks expected. Paths may be muddy, facilities available. Meet at upper parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Leader:TBA. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Blackwater NWR for Bald Eagles (maybe a Golden?) and waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Roger Stone, at 410-770-9636 or by email at krstone@dmv.com.

Tuesday, October 22

MEETING. Washington. "Birding the West: Alaska to Arizona; Colorado to California" is the title of Paul Zucker's talk. The meeting will be held at Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276.

Friday, October 25

FIELD TRIP- Howard.Weekday Walk at David Force Park. Moderate walking through the varied habitat of this county open space. Woodland, fields and streams. Paths and grass may be wet. Great for beginning birders. No facilities. Meet at split rail fence off Pebble beach drive at 8:00 a.m. Call Bonnie Ott for info 410-461-3361.

Saturday, October 26

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants & Hawk Watch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Marcia Whitmyre, at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Owl Prowl. Deborah Bowers (410-692-9741) will host and Tom Congersky (410-676-6489) will co-lead this nocturnal search for Barred, Great Horned and Screech owls - Saw-Whet is not out of the question either!! Meet at the Deborah's house at 7:00 p.m. (call for directions).

FIELD TRIP. Washington. A trip to Lily Pons. Meet at the Rt. 66 Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. Contact the leader, Judy Lilga, 301 432-2276, for further information.

Sunday, October 27

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk to Tripps Creek for Winter arrival potpourri. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information, contact the leader, Terry Allen, at 410-822-8132.

Monday, October 28

MEETING. Tri-County. "Birds of Delmarva's Coastal Bays" by Dave Wilson. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Fox Room of the Asbury Methodist Church in Salisbury. For further information, contact Sam Dyke at 410-742-5497.

Tuesday, October 29

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Waggoner's Gap, PA. 3/4 day. 100+ miles from the Washington Beltway, but worth the trip. Excellent location for peak time of Goshawk and Golden Eagle migration. Scopes are helpful. Dress warmly and bring a cushion and food, including lunch (the rocks are hard and cold, and once you climb to the watching area it is annoying to have to return to your auto). Trip may be rescheduled a day earlier or later depending on weather conditions. Call leader or information and reservations (Mike Bowen may co-lead). Leader: Hugh Mahanes 301-564-0780.

MOS Field Trips — Sept/Oct 2002

Sunday, September 1

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Warblers & Hawk Watch Kick Off for 2002. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407or Leslie Fisher at gonbrdn@dolnet.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Butterflies Through Binoculars at Centennial Park. An easy walk on paved pathways around the wildlife area of the lake. Learn to identify butterflies on the wing. Great for beginners. Meet at the west end parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Will be canceled if raining or overcast. Binoculars recommended. Facilities available. Leader: Dick Smith 410-997-7439.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Tilghman Island for landbirds and early waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. For further information, contact the leader, Jan Reese, at 410-745-2875.

Wednesday, September 4

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Almost Autumn Avian Adventure. Meet at Hughes Hollow at 3 p.m. We will bird McKee-Besher's WMA until dusk. All are welcome. Reservations not required. Call leader for more information or directions. Leader: Jim Green 301-208-2393.

Thursday, September 5

MEETING. Frederick. Stauffer Miller will regale us with his tales of birding in Jamaica and Uganda. Meet at Monocacy Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Call Marcia Balestri (301-473-5098) for details.

Saturday, September 7

ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK PICNIC. Anne Arundel. 4:00 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Taylor. Bring your favorite dish to share with everyone. Call 410-923-0069 for more information.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants & Hawk Watch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. For further information contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Warblers in the Watershed. Lois Kauffman will lead us on a quest for fall migrants in the Frederick Watershed. Meet at Culler Lake Boathouse in Baker Park (2nd Street just west of College Terrace) at 7:30 a.m. For information, contact Lois (301-845-6690).

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen. Home of the Harford County Public Schools Environmental Education facility, Harford Glen is a terrific birding location and a great place to visit if you are a novice birder. Join leaders Lynn Davis (410-569-0504) and Dave Seitz at 7:00 a.m. to comb this County "hot spot".

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Triadelphia Area. 1/2 day. Excellent chance for early fall migrants. Looking for 7-8 intrepid birders for a morning of woodland birding along the Patuxent River watershed. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at Ashton Village Center (near 7-11) at intersection of Routes 108 & 650. Reservations are required. Leader: Rick Sussman 301-774-1185.

Sunday, September 8

ANNUAL PICNIC. Allegany. End the summer at Carey Run with the Allegany County Bird Club. Good fellowship - good food - good fun! Please bring a covered dish - meat and drinks provided as in the past. 1 p.m. til? Contact Barbara Gaffney (301) 895-4646 for info.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Birding For Beginners at Wilde Lake. Easy walking along the lake and wooded stream. Learn the basics on bird identification, choosing and using binoculars and field guides. Meet at the boat dock at 9:00 a.m. Leaders will have spotting scopes. No facilities. Leaders: Jeff Friedhoffer 410-997-5366 and Dave Holyoke 410-531-1355.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Choptank River farms and forests for a diversity of habitats and birds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center on Marlboro Road in Easton. For further information contact the leader, Wayne Bell, at 410-820-6002 or:

wayne.bell@washcoll.edu.

Wednesday, September 11

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday Walk at Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Migrants will be moving and the combination of woods and water should host many species. Meet at the west end lot at 8:00. Facilities available. Contact Bonnie Ott for info. 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. 1/2 day. Migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Picnic Area #18 (on Ridge Road half mile below Nature Center). Reservations not required. Call leader if unsure of directions. Leader: Robert Hilton 301-587-6136.

Thursday, September 12

MEETING. Howard. "Deer Management in Howard County: Concerns and Conflicts," by Phil Norman, Dept. of Recreation and Parks. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Kurt Schwarz at 410-461-1643.

MEETING. Talbot. "The Heartbeat of the Chesapeake: Causes and Consequences of the Bay's Circulation" by Dr. William Boicourt, Horn Point Laboratory Meet at 7:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank Maryland Room (basement meeting room), Goldsborough and Harrison Streets, Easton.

Friday, September 13

FIELD TRIP. Patuxent. Pontoon boat trip at Jug Bay. Good chance to see Sora Rails. The incomparable Greg Kearns at the helm, with special emphasis on the ecology and restoration

(continued at bottom of page 12)

The copy deadline for the Nov/Dec issue of the Yellowthroat is September 25 for chapter activities and October 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for September & October to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-436-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-691-5707

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